



# ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 271  
32802-0271

Orlando, Florida  
(407) 317-3200

445 W. Amelia Street  
32801-1127

February 9, 2006

Dr. Hanna Skandera  
Deputy Commissioner  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Skandera:

I am writing to support the current Department of Education proposal to the U.S. Department of Education to include a growth component in the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to meet No Child Left Behind requirements. Unlike the school grading system, the present AYP calculation does not recognize schools where students come to school at a low level but make substantial progress while in school. This new component would recognize these effective schools whose students make significant progress. This change would not lower standards; it would simply recognize many very effective schools.

Good luck with your proposal.

Sincerely,

Ronald Blocker  
Superintendent